

MANCHESTER YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU
63 Linden Street
Manchester, CT 06040
860-647-5213

MISSION: Manchester Youth Service Bureau is a community-based youth serving agency that provides a variety of no-cost programs and services using a personal approach, facilitated by dedicated staff, for the purpose of helping to develop responsible individuals who make positive contributions to the community.

PRIMARY PURPOSE: Manchester Youth Service Bureau assists youth in becoming healthy, productive members of their community by offering programs and services to youth ages 0-18 who reside in or attend school in Manchester.

PROGRAMS: Our programs and services fall into 6 major core areas: Life Skills, Employment/Vocational, Community Service, Diversion, Early Childhood Services, and Teen Center/Outreach. A sample of the programs is listed below. Please call us at 860-647-5213 to find out what we currently are offering and for registration information.

Boyz to Men: Boyz to Men is an enrichment program designed to provide support to young men (ages 14-18) who can benefit from the guidance, friendship, and life experiences of adult male mentors in a group setting. Youth will be exposed to a variety of positive activities such as college tours and community events.

Boys Council: Boys Council is an evidence-based “rite of passage” program for boys ages 9-18 (separated into age-specific groups). This group offers a safe place for boys to discuss their experiences, express their ideas, and share their true selves.

Diversion: Diversion serves as a means to prevent youth who commit minor, first-time criminal offenses from being referred to Juvenile Court. Together with a program coordinator, the youth and his/her family create and implement a plan designed to make restitution to the community, improve the youth’s social and life skills, and address other needs of the family. Referrals come directly from the Police Department.

Girls Circle: Girls Circle, an evidence-based program for girls ages 9-18 (separated into age-specific groups), explores what it means to be a girl, allows for the exchange ideas, and discusses the future through creative, fun, and interactive activities. By design it fosters self-esteem and assists girls in creating authentic connections with peers and adult women in their community.

Journey: Journey is a service learning program with an emphasis on environmental education, leadership, and woodworking training. Projects focus on giving back to the community while building relationships and learning important life skills.

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program: This collaborative effort between the Manchester Youth Service Bureau, the Manchester Police Department, Manchester Fire, Rescue, & EMS, and the Community Child Guidance Clinic of Manchester screens, educates, and refers children engaged in fire setting behavior. Referrals come directly from the Police Department or other appropriate agency.

Learn and Play Workshop: This 8-week workshop series, for parents and caregivers of young children, teaches developmentally appropriate skills and activities for young children, ages 3-5, and promotes wellness and school readiness skills in a collaborative and supportive environment. The program includes an educational playgroup for children 3-5 years old.

Mother-Daughter Circle: Mother-Daughter Circle, an evidence-based support program, promotes healthy and sustaining bonds between mothers and daughters during the transitional years from girlhood to young womanhood. Mother-Daughter Circle provides a safe, consistent, and strength based approach to supporting mothers and daughters on their relationship journey. Open to Guardians/Moms & their 11-16 year old daughters.

PFLAG (Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ People to Move Equality Forward): PFLAG is the nation's largest family and ally organization. PFLAG is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people through its threefold mission of support, education, and advocacy. By supporting this mission, PFLAG aims to make our community a healthier, more well-informed, safer, fairer, and happier place for LGBTQ people, their families, and their loved ones. Meetings are open and designed to support families with LGBTQ youth. Meetings will be structured to include an art and activity group for gender non-conforming kids (ages 6-12), LGBTQ youth group (ages 12-18) and a parent/ally support group.

SibShop: This monthly group provides opportunities for brothers and sisters of children with behavioral and developmental health needs to obtain peer support and education in a fun setting.

Summer Youth Employment & Learning Program (SYELP): SYELP is a partnership between Capital Workforce Partners, Capital Region Education Council, and the Town of Manchester. This summer program for youth ages 15-18 years old develops employability and entrepreneurial skills necessary to enter the workforce. Students participate in workforce training followed by paid summer internship (Program is dependent on State funding).

Youth Commission: This diverse group of youth collaborates with local government in an effort to create open communication in the decision making process, making it possible to strengthen the community through the voice of youth. Applications are collected year round and selections are made each spring.

Teen Center: The Teen Center is a safe, drug and alcohol free place where teens enjoy the many activities we provide. Regular programming is scheduled, as well as free time where youth can play games, do their homework, and/or visit with friends. Please call for hours.

FEES: All programs and services are free of charge.

COLLABORATION: We work closely with a variety of town departments, community and state agencies, and other programs and organizations to provide or help provide services to youth and their families.

**OFFICE HOURS ARE 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 860-647-5213**